

# Abbeville Press and Banner

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## HARDING SEEKS RATE REDUCTION

**RAILWAY PRESIDENTS MEET AT WHITE HOUSE—EXECUTIVES UNANIMOUSLY IN FAVOR OF PROCEEDING FOR RESTORATION OF BUSINESS.**

Washington, May 20.—Request was made by President Harding at a conference with 19 of the leading railroad executives of the country at a White House dinner conference tonight for the cooperation of the larger railroads of the country with the interstate commerce commission in voluntary reductions of railroad rates. An agreement was reached for the creation of a special committee to take up the matter further.

The entire matter was gone over during the conference, which was also participated in by Secretary Hoover, and it was declared in a White House statement issued after the meeting had terminated that the railroad executives were unanimously in favor of assisting the restoration of business by such rate action as they might find possible to take.

"The president invited the railroad presidents and the board chairmen to dine with him," the statement said, "and to confer with him concerning further relief for railroad service along some lines somewhat similar to voluntary reductions granted in some commodities some months ago, more particularly on such basic commodities as may be found necessary to speed industrial betterment. The whole railroad problem was discussed and difficulties of railroad management under existing conditions were presented. The presidents voiced their unanimous desire to make the fullest contributions possible to restore and maintain prosperity.

"Various aspects of the railroad problem were discussed, particularly the necessary preparation in providing new or repaired equipment when normal business is restored. The president made it clear he was attempting none of the duties of rate making or rate recommendations, but he felt that much could be accomplished by conference and that helpful results must accompany a full cooperation between the railroad heads and the government body charged with the regulation of rates. The executives voted to have a committee named from their membership to take up the problem and recommend what action could be taken."

The only statement issued was that from the White House, the railroad executives departing immediately and declining to discuss the conference which lasted until a late hour.

## PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION TO MEET

The Abbeville Parent-Teacher association will meet at the graded school building Tuesday afternoon at 4:30. A debate by representatives of the four high school literary societies will be on the program, after which there will be a report from the nominating committee appointed a month ago to suggest names for the officers of the association for the next year. A full attendance of the membership is desired at this last important meeting of the present session.

## DEATH OF MRS. W. W. SPROUSE

Mrs. W. W. Sprouse died at her home in Abbeville Friday night after an illness of about two hours. Funeral services were held Sunday morning conducted by Rev. John Carter of the Holiness Church, and interment was at Long Cane cemetery.

Mrs. Sprouse was about sixty years of age and is survived by two sons, Roland and Son Kirby, and three daughters, Mrs. John Beauford, Mrs. Walter Scott and Mrs. Ola Saunders.

## SENATE MEMBERS GET INFORMATION

**THOMAS A. EDISON TELLS OF MUSCLE SHOALS—NOTED INVENTOR ASKS TO BE EXCUSED FROM DISCUSSION OF FORD'S OFFER**

Washington, May 20.—Thomas A. Edison, the electrical wizard, gave members of the senate agriculture committee in executive session today the benefit of his wisdom as applied to development of the government properties at Muscle Shoals, Alabama, but despite all of his knowledge was said to have been unable to give committee members what they most sought—advice on acceptance of the various private offers.

The noted inventor, although he visited Muscle Shoals some weeks ago with Henry Ford, his friend, asked to be excused from answering when members began to ply him with questions as to the merits and demerits of the Ford offer for lease and purchase of the properties. He referred to the various private offers as "hard nuts to crack" and the decision as to acceptance or rejection of them as a task in the performance of which he did not envy the senators.

Mr. Edison was understood to have told the senators he was convinced, however, that fertilizer could be manufactured at Muscle Shoals more cheaply than was being done now by any fertilizer companies or could be done by any of the existing methods. Committee members also said the inventor gave them valuable information regarding rich deposits of potash, limestone and other minerals which, he said, existed in the Muscle Shoals territory and had stated that the project should be developed beyond question. He also was said to have discussed with intimacy the various processes used in fixing nitrogen from the air and in the manufacture of fertilizer ingredients.

## BRADLEY DIRECTS INCOME TAX WORK

**Retiring Acting Collector Will Handle New State Income Act. Duties Familiar.**

Columbia, May 22.—W. R. Bradley, who retires as acting collector of internal revenue this morning, will become director of the income tax division of the South Carolina tax commission. Mr. Bradley will turn over the office of internal revenue collector to Maj. John F. Jones of Blacksburg, the change taking place prior to the opening of business today, which will be around 9 o'clock.

Following the transfer of the office to Major Jones, Mr. Bradley will begin his duties as director of the state income tax work during the morning. He has been appointed to the new place by the South Carolina tax commission, Walter G. Query, chairman.

The tax commission has held the place of director of the income tax division open for several weeks, realizing that in obtaining the services of Mr. Bradley the commission would have a man thoroughly familiar with the work. Soon after the passage of the state income tax act the commission in casting about for a man to take charge of the work offered the place to Mr. Bradley, but he was not able to accept the directorship at that time. However, he gave the commission assurances that he would take up the work later when he was relieved as acting collector and the commission decided to await his acceptance of the directorship, which was given a few days ago.

Mr. Bradley is a native of Troy and was for a number of years superintendent of the city schools here, later serving as superintendent of education of Abbeville County.

## HARVEY TAKES OATH AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**NEW GOVERNOR SWORN IN SATURDAY AT NOON AS ROBERT A. COOPER RETIRED FROM OFFICE.—PRAISES ADMINISTRATION OF PREDECESSOR.**

Columbia, May 21.—Wilson Godfrey Harvey of Charleston was sworn in as governor of South Carolina Saturday at noon, Chief Justice Eugene B. Gary, who administered the oath, declaring Mr. Harvey governor at 12:03 o'clock. The ceremony was simple, consuming about ten minutes including the remarks of the new governor. He succeeded Robert A. Cooper, resigned.

Shortly before the hour for the taking of the oath friends of the incoming and outgoing governor assembled in the executive offices and the supreme court room. Governor Cooper escorted Mr. Harvey to the court room and they were followed by Walter E. Duncan, the comptroller general and W. Banks Dove, secretary of state. A number of other officials and friends marched from the executive offices behind the lieutenant governor and the governor.

W. Banks Dove, secretary of state announced that he held the resignation of Governor Cooper in his hands and Governor Cooper announced that the lieutenant governor was present and ready to qualify. Chief Justice Gary immediately administered the oath of office to Mr. Harvey and pronounced him chief executive of the state.

Governor Harvey made a brief address after taking the oath.

After the ceremonies Governor Harvey issued a statement in which he said, "I am mindful of the fact that the usual antagonisms resulting from conflicting political differences are not now swaying the public mind and that at this particular period there prevails a general spirit of political peace and harmony." The statement deals with general affairs of the state.

Attending the ceremony, which was held in the supreme court room, were members of the supreme court, state officials, attaches and friends of both the incoming and outgoing governor.

The former governor and Mrs. Cooper left yesterday afternoon for Washington, where Mr. Cooper will qualify as a member of the federal farm loan board Monday. They will be in Washington a few days and will return to Columbia to allow Mr. Cooper to wind up his personal affairs. The permanent change of residence to Washington will be made within the next ten days or two weeks.

## CLEMSON GRADUATES

**Abbeville County Has Five Young Men in Graduating Class.**

In the Clemson graduating class this year the following Abbeville young men will finish in the different departments: Agriculture, Samuel Andrew Williams, Clarence Clinton Crowther. Electrical Engineering: Joseph Maxcy Johnson, Andrew Manse Hill and Joseph Weber Wilson. Textile Engineering, John Richard Swetenburg.

This is a good showing for Abbeville. There are one hundred and thirty nine members of the graduating class, and the Abbeville boys stand well in the school and in the class rooms.

## STATE REPRESENTED

**Misses Graves and Fulmer in Washington.**

Washington, May 21.—In the dedication of the new headquarters of the National Woman's party here this afternoon South Carolina was represented by Miss Caroline Graves of Abbeville and Miss Margie Fulmer of Orangeburg. Miss Graves delivered the message of congratulation from the South Carolina branch of the party. Miss Fulmer bore the banner of South Carolina in the parade.

## MANY PERISH WHEN SHIPS MEET

**NEARLY 100 PERSONS ARE LOST—PASSENGERS JUMP INTO SEA WHEN SHIPS CRASH. MANY RESCUED—AMERICANS ABOARD**

Brest, France, May 21.—Nearly 100 persons perished last night when the Peninsula and Oriental line steamer Egypt sank off the Island of Ushant after a collision with the French freight steamer Seine.

The Egypt sailed from London for Bombay Friday with forty-four passengers and a crew of 290. A roll call on board the Seine after the disaster showed that at least fifteen of the passengers and eighty of the crew of the Egypt were missing.

The collision occurred during a dense fog within twenty-two miles of the Armen lighthouse. The dinner gong was about to be sounded on board the Egypt. Many of the passengers and most of the crew were on deck. The shock threw several persons into the sea; others jumped and a number went down with the ship, which sank in twenty minutes. The Egypt was rammed amidship on the port side.

The Seine, badly damaged reached Brest today with twenty-nine rescued passengers, more than 200 of the crew and the bodies of twenty dead. The captain of the Egypt is among the saved.

When the collision occurred there was a rolling sea. Some of those rescued charge that the Indian sailors on board the Egypt took to the lifeboats, immediately the vessels crashed, so that a large number of the passengers and crew had to shift for themselves.

Those who jumped into the sea and who could not swim scrambled about for bits of wreckage to which they might cling. Many of these were rescued. They floated about in the fog after the Egypt went down, calling for help. The sound of their voices directed members of the crew of the Seine's small boats who were patrolling the sea, picking up both living and dead.

In some instances the rescue crews came upon persons clinging to bits of debris who let go and sank just as aid for them was at hand. The small boats on numerous occasions sought vainly in the fog. Among the known missing are the doctor and chief engineer of the Egypt.

The Egypt was a vessel of 8,000 tons. The Seine was bound for Havre when the disaster occurred.

## MR. SIMS A. ALLEN

**Died at His Home Near the City Today After Long Illness.**

Mr. Sims A. Allen died this morning at his home in the Fonville section after a long illness, and will be buried tomorrow at Long Cane cemetery. Funeral services will be conducted by his pastor, Rev. H. C. Fenal.

Mr. Allen came to Abbeville in 1890 from Prince Edward County, Virginia, and married Miss Alice Ione Wilson. Of this union two children were born, one daughter, Louise, who preceded her father in death, and one son, Frank, who survives his father. Mr. Allen is survived by his widow, six sisters and four brothers, who reside in Virginia and elsewhere. He was 72 years old.

Up to the time of his death Mr. Allen was an active member and elder of the Warrenton Presbyterian church. He was a prominent citizen of Abbeville County, loved and respected by all who knew him.

The time of the funeral service which will be held at the home has not been announced, awaiting advice from relatives in Virginia.

The sympathy of the people of Abbeville is extended to the family of the deceased.

## COAL CONFERENCE HELD NEXT WEEK

**HOOVER WOULD PREVENT BULGE IN PRICES—GARFIELD SCHEDULE OF PRICES MAY BE OBSERVED TO PREVENT SPECULATION**

Washington, May 21.—Administration plans for holding down soft coal prices were carried a step further today when Secretary Hoover issued a general call for a conference of all the 1,500 odd operators whose mines are still producing. The conference is to be held in Washington May 31.

The operators will be asked to approve and put into effect the scheme of creating district committees to receive and allocate all orders during the duration of the strike and with cooperation from a Washington committee to prevent coal from going into the hands of speculators and middlemen who may unduly enhance prices.

Fifty operators controlling the bulk of present non-union and open shop production last week pledged themselves to support the plan, using the Garfield prices of the war time fuel administration as a general basis from which to set up fair price standards. This would establish mine price of bituminous in a range of from \$2 to \$3 per ton.

"In the meantime, the administration expects the coal operators not to sell at coal prices in excess of the Garfield prices with such adjustments as are necessary," Mr. Hoover's statement on the general conference call said. "Furthermore, charges by wholesalers or retailers of larger companies higher than those allowed under the Garfield scale, or the resale of coal for speculative purposes is not fair to the public, and the government would like to hear from consumers who have been subjected to higher prices than this basis.

## METHODISTS NEAR END OF CONFERENCE

**Important Meeting at Hot Springs About To Pass Into History**

Hot Springs, Ark., May 20.—The 19th general conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, ere virtually passed into history tonight when the body wound up the important features of its business program and recessed until tomorrow, at which time the five newly elected bishops will be consecrated and memorial services will be held for deceased bishops.

A few odds and ends of business went over and they will be disposed of Monday morning, the time set for formal adjournment of the conference.

At today's sessions the conference refused to change the name of the church in the apostolic creed from "the holy catholic church" to "the Church of God," and voted against merging five of the church publications, now printed at Nashville, under a consolidated management. The conference voted to use a surplus of approximately \$1,500,000 from its European war work fund to build churches at educational centers.

The consecration ceremonies for new bishops and the memorial for deceased bishops will be held tomorrow at noon at one of the local churches.

## FAST TIME OVER NEW ROAD

Treasurer R. B. Cheatham and family went to McCormick to spend the day yesterday with the Britt family and returning made the record time of five miles an hour over the road in McCormick County. Mr. Cheatham was acquainted with mud in France, but claims this was the worst he ever saw. Recent rains and new top soil roads was the combination he had to meet.

## EUROPE HELPED BY CONFERENCE

**GOOD WILL WILL COME OF GENOA CONFERENCE—THINK THAT ACHIEVEMENTS WILL LIVE AND CONTRIBUTE TO PACIFICATION**

Genoa, May 20.—The dominant thought in Genoa tonight as the delegations to the economic conference were leaving or preparing to depart, seemingly was that, although the conference was a thing of the past as far as Genoa is concerned, its achievements would live and contribute much to the pacification and reconstruction of Europe.

The officials of some of the smaller states undoubtedly will go home disappointed, perhaps angry, because their troubles have not been settled at Genoa. Lithuania, for example, is chagrined that Genoa has not chased the Polish troops from Lithuanian territory and the small Russian republics bordering the Caspian and Black seas are aggrieved because Genoa failed to free them from Bolshevik rule.

But as a whole the belief prevails that the Genoa conference, despite disputes which almost pushed Europe to the edge of a precipice, has resulted in the beginning of better understandings between the nations of Europe, including Russia. Even official France, which came here reluctantly, almost suspiciously, goes away with more confidence. Louis Barthou, vice premier in the French cabinet and France's chief delegate to the conference, in his final words to the press tonight declared it was his conviction that the Genoa conference, which he called the "child of Cannes" was today in good health, and that he saw no reason why the infant could not journey safely to The Hague and there thrive and prosper.

The question whether the Russian problem will so develop as to make possible later participation by the United States in its solution was the great subject of discussion tonight.

David Lloyd George, who has hurried back to England, has not accomplished everything he hoped for, but today found him in rare good humor as the conference held its closing session.

The conference adjourned after adopting a provisional non-aggression pact, approving arrangements for The Hague meeting and adopting the report of the economic commission with its recommendations for the rebuilding of disorganized Europe.

Admittedly, everything now depends on the Russian Communists. If they continue as intransigent in Holland as in Italy, there seems little prospect of an agreement with Russia. Meanwhile the desperate straits of the Russian people are in the minds of all the delegates. As one of them said tonight, "every possible effort will be made to save the valiant Russian people from suffering and death. Even the Communists are Russians, and perhaps they will understand."

## COTTON MARKET

Cotton on the local market today brought 20 cents. Futures closed

May	21.53
July	20.30
October	20.06
December	19.98
January	19.81
Futures closed Saturday	
May	20.21
July	19.93
October	19.79
December	19.78
January	19.65

## REV. MELTON CLARK

Rev. Melton Clark, of Columbia, preached in the Presbyterian church Sunday morning and evening to a large and interested congregation. During his stay in Abbeville Rev. Mr. Clark stopped at the Eureka Hotel.